

FOLKWAYS

husbands. In Hindostan now the relations of husband and wife are not mutual. The man's mother must always be the first to him. "This is in full accordance with the national sentiment which stigmatizes affection which asks for equal return as shop-keeping." ¹ "Who talks of vulgar equality," asks the Hindoo wife, "when she may instead have the unspeakable blessedness of offering worship."²

377. Slavonic sex mores. The southern Slavs and people of the Caucasus have allowed their sex mores to run into some extreme forms which to outsiders seem vicious. Young married women contract a very intimate relation to their bride attendants, of whom two attend a bride on her wedding day. She is but a girl, and is given to a man whom she never saw before, does not like, and never can like; she comes into a strange house where it is of the first importance for the rest of her life that she shall please her parents-in-law by the greatest humility and submission; she is forbidden by custom to approach her husband freely; she scarcely sees him during the day; yet she may freely converse with his brothers, who were her bride attendants. The elder one, if he is married, and if he is polite to her, becomes her best friend. An Albanian who has been away at work will not bring back a gift for his wife. He shows more attention to the wife of his elder brother. The Servian bride is ashamed of her marital relation, and thinks it indecent to address her husband in public, even after she has borne him children. He remains a stranger to her, and her relation to him is scarcely more than that of sex. Her brother she loves beyond any other. She will mourn for him with the deepest sorrow, but it would be a shame for

a woman to
mourn for her husband, much more for a bride to
mourn for her
bridegroom. In former times it was improper for a
man to begin
conjugal life immediately after marriage. The bride
attendants,
brothers of the groom, spent the first night by the
side of the
bride, and for the next three nights the mother or
sister of the
groom slept with the bride. The groom is reluctant.
A Servian
woman is derided if she has a child within a year
after mar-
riage. In some districts sex morality is very
high, in others

¹ Nivedita, *Web of Indian Life*, 33.

² *Ibid.*, 45.